

Serial No. 09/881,673
Amdt. dated February 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 03, 2003

Docket No. IK-0020

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings and claims 1-9 are amended, and claims 10-30 are added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bridson, U.S. Patent No. 6,359,270. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a touchscreen provided on the refrigerator and configured to receive image data written or drawn on the touchscreen by a user. Bridson neither discloses nor suggests such features.

Bridson teaches a communications module 12 for placement on a door assembly 3 of a microwave oven. The front of the communications module 12 is defined by an LCD 20 with a touch screen overlay (not shown). This communications module 12 allows a user to control the function of the microwave oven, as well as to access, using either the touch screen or a remote control, online functions such as electronic mail, banking, shopping, personal organization tools, and the like. An icon based toolbar provides ease of access and choice of appropriate Internet tools such as web browsers, thus facilitating the user's access to and use of these online functions.

As disclosed by Bridson at column 11, lines 9-19, 30-34, and 43-55, and as shown in Figures 10 and 12, Bridson's touchscreen provides "point and select" type access to the information displayed. More specifically, a user must use either a remote control to toggle among the selections and select, or use the touch screen to choose from the selections provided. The only data a user may input is that which is selected from the predetermined selection provided on the screen. Bridson's touchscreen and communications module 12 are not configured to receive and process image data written or drawn by a user, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, Bridson's communications module 12 is directed only at the use of online services. Thus, Bridson does not provide, for example, the simplicity and utility of the claimed embodiments of the invention, which allows a user to input information as image data, and in a manner which is deemed most efficient and useful by the user.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Bridson, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Bridson should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridson in view of Omori, U.S. Patent No. 5,675,363. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 2 recites, *inter alia*, a touchscreen provided on the refrigerator and configured to receive information on items stored in the refrigerator in the form of user generated image data. As set forth above, the communications module and touchscreen taught

Arg #3
by Bridson simply allows a user to select from system generated information, and thus neither discloses nor suggests the claimed touchscreen. Further, is Omori merely cited to teach the use of a divided storage means, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Bridson.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 2 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bridson in view of Omori should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bridson in view of Omori. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 3 is allowable over Bridson and Omori at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 2, from which it depends, as well as for its added features.

Arg #4
Independent claim 4 recites, *inter alia*, receiving user generated image data corresponding to the items stored in the refrigerator through the touchscreen. As set forth above, Bridson's communications module 12 is simply focused on providing a user with a connection to the Internet, and is manipulated simply through the use of a remote control or touch pad to select from predetermined selections provided by a website on the screen. Thus, Bridson neither discloses nor suggests such features. Further, as set forth above, Omori fails to overcome the deficiencies of Bridson.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 4 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bridson in view of Omori should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 5-6 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 4, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 7 recites, *inter alia*, receiving image data generated by a user for the specific date into the input screen. As set forth above, Bridson neither discloses nor suggests such features. Further, as set forth above, Omori fails to overcome the deficiencies of Bridson.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 7 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bridson in view of Omori should be withdrawn. Dependent claim 8 is allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 7, from which it depends, as well as for its added features.

The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridson in view of Omori, and further in view of McGill et al., U.S. Publication No. 20020016734A1 (hereinafter "McGill"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 is allowable over Bridson and Omori at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 7, from which it depends, as well as for its added features.

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Further, McGill is merely cited to teach a calendar and schedule function with an integrated repetition feature, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Bridson and Omori.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 9 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bridson, Omori, and McGill should be withdrawn.

New claims 21-30 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 21-30 also define over the applied references and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

CONCLUSION

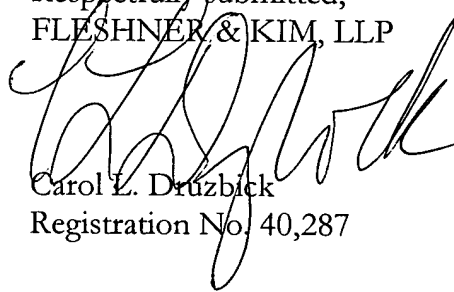
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbeck**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

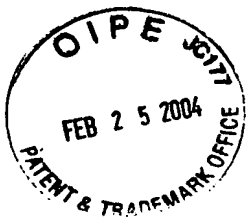


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Fig. 3



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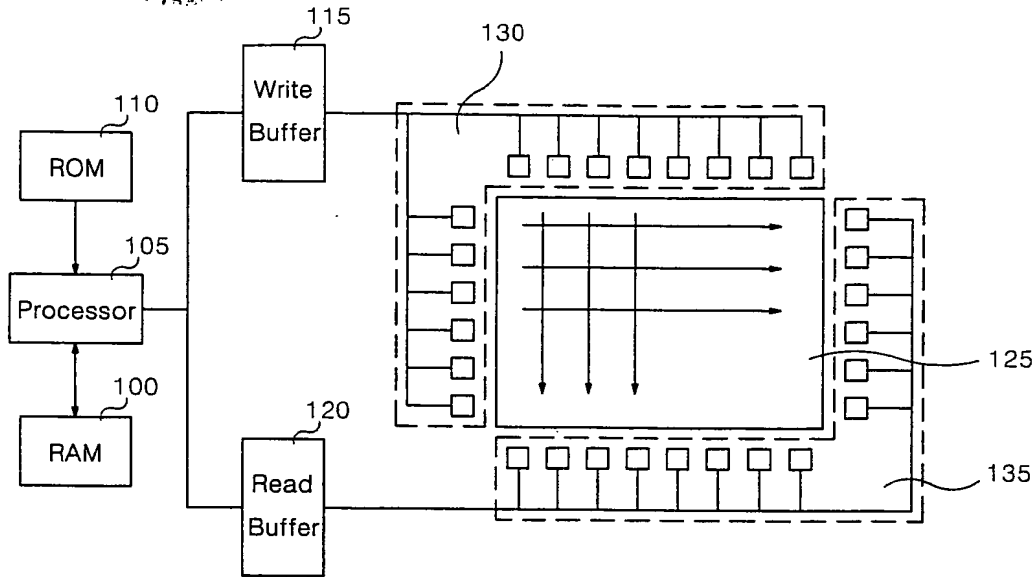


Fig. 4

